

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 01303 121907Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 MCT-01 ACDA-12 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01
SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 SSM-03
/077 W

-----085184 121913Z /42

O 121720Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 7052
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 1303

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT PARAS 2 AND 3)

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, LE, IS
SUBJECT: GOL REACTION TO PLO TERRORIST ATTACK IN ISRAEL

1. GOL FOREIGN MINISTER BOUTROS CALLED AMBASSADOR AT 17:30
LOCAL SUNDAY MARCH 12 RE PALESTINIAN TERRORIST ATTACK IN
ISRAEL PREVIOUS DAY. BOUTROS NOTED A) THAT PM BEGIN HAD SAID
ISRAEL HAD EVIDENCE TERRORISTS CAME FROM LEBANON; B) THAT
DEFENSE MINISTER WEIZMAN HAD BEEN QUOTED AS SAYING THEY
HELD LEBANON RESPONSIBLE; AND, C) THAT THERE WERE MEDIA
REPORTS OF MASSING OF ISRAELI TROOPS ALONG LEBANESE BORDER.

2. BOUTROS NOTED THAT NEITHER GOL NOR ANYONE ELSE HAD
CONTROL IN SOUTH LEBANON AND THAT IT WAS NEITHER JUST NOR
FAIR TO HOLD LEBANON RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT HAD HAPPENED.
HE ASKED THAT THE USG ASK ISRAEL TO "REFRAIN FROM ACTION
AGAINST US".

3. AMBASSADOR REPLIED IT WAS SAFE TO ASSUME THAT ISRAEL
WOULD STAGE SAME SORT OF CROSS BORDER ACTION IN THE SOUTH.
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BOUTROS SAID ANYTHING ISRAELIS DID IN THE SOUTH WOULD HAVE
REPERCUSSIONS IN LEBANON AS A WHOLE. NEVERTHELESS, THERE
WAS A SCALE OF ACTION IN SUCH MATTERS AND HE REPEATED HIS
REQUEST THAT ISRAEL "REFRAIN FROM ACTION AGAINST US".

4. COMMENT: IMPLICATION OF ABOVE REMARKS IS THAT BOUTROS
UNDERSTANDS ISRAEL WILL PROBABLY RETALIATE AGAINST LEBANON

BUT ASKS THAT WE DISSUADE ISRAELIS FROM ATTACKING LEBANON.
IT WOULD BE WRONG, HOWEVER, TO READ THIS AS GOL ACQUIESCENCE
IN ANY ISRAELI CROSS BORDER OPERATION.
PARKER

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Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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